DARK HORSE COMICS
DARK HORSE COMICS 19
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COMICS' GREATEST WORLD
LEONARDI PAIMIOTTI 93
ALIENS: ALIEN
ARCUDI - MENDOZA
STAR WARS: DROIDS
THORSLAND - HUGHES - MUSHYNSKY
X: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
LUKE - LAM

DARK HORSE COMICS #19

X: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE 1

PART 1 OF 2
SCRIPT: ERIC LUKE
ART: NGHIA LAM
LETTERER: STEVE DUTRO
COLORS: MATTHEW HOLLINGSWORTH

DARK HORSE COMMENTS 13

STAR WARS: DROIDS 15

PART 3 OF 3
SCRIPT: DAN THORSLAND
PENCILS: BILL HUGHES
INKS: ANDY MUSHYNSKY
LETTERER: BILL PEARSON
COLORS: PAMELA RAMBO
STORY EDITOR: RYDER WINDHAM

ALIENS: ALIEN 23

PART 3 OF 3
SCRIPT: JOHN ARCUDI
ART: PAUL MENDOZA
LETTERER: VICKIE WILLIAMS
COLORS: JAMES SINCLAIR

COVER ART: RICK LEONARDI & JIMMY PALMIOTTI
COVER COLORS: MATTHEW HOLLINGSWORTH
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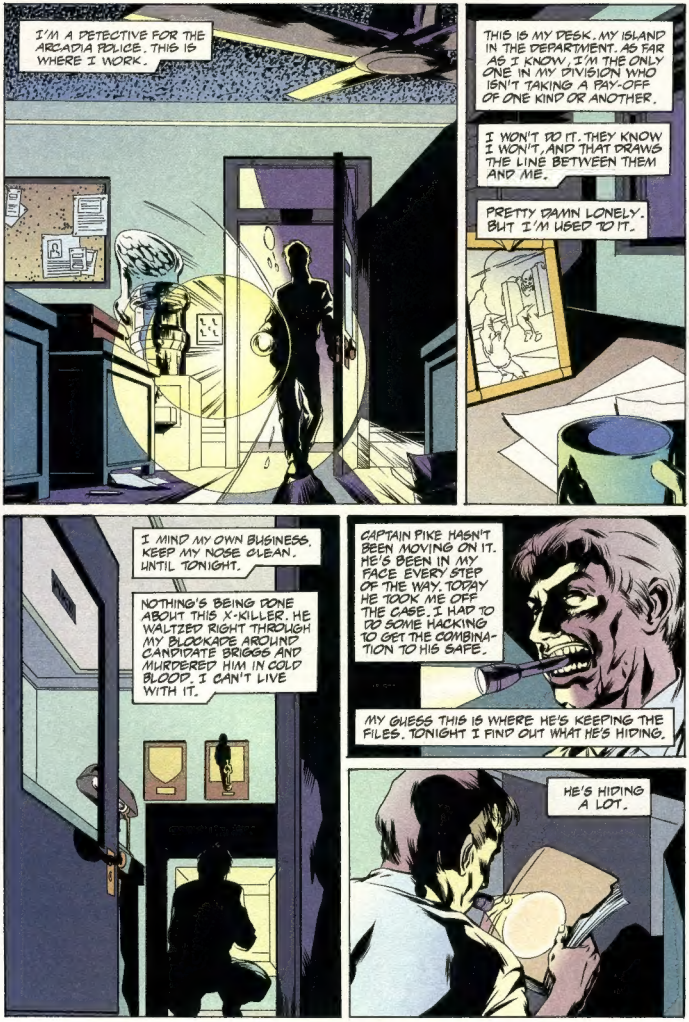
WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
PART ONE OF TWO
I'M GOING TO DIE.
EXIT

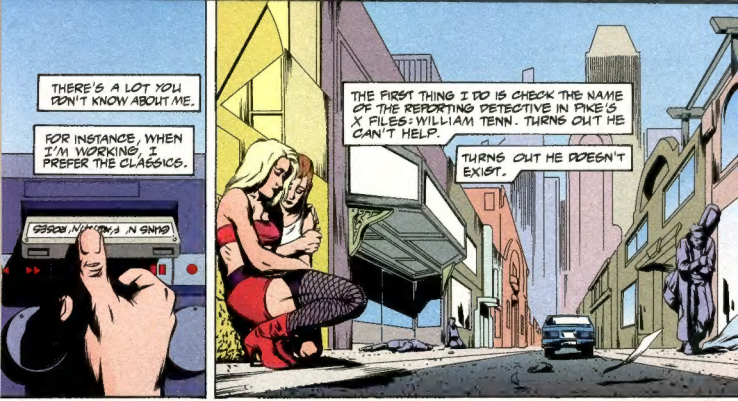
MY GUTS TURN OVER. I'M IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.
I'M SCARED. BUT IT'S NOT FOR ME.
I'VE GOT TWO LITTLE GIRLS I'M RAISING ON MY OWN. THEY DEPEND ON ME TO COME HOME EVERY NIGHT. I MAY HAVE JUST REALLY SCREWED THAT UP.
7
OKAY, BOYS. THIS IS AN OFF-LIMITS AREA.
MY VOICE BREAKS, STUPID.
BUT THEY GET ONE WARNING. YOU GO BY THE BOOK...
...OR YOU'RE AS BAD AS THEY ARE. WHEN STEEL HARBOR WENT TO HELL ARCADIA PICKED UP A WHOLE NEW CROP OF PARANORMALS WHO COULDN'T STAND THE HEAT.
YOU SEE? HE WENT AND DID IT. NOW I GOT TO TELL HIM TO GET OUT OF MY...
THOUGHT IT'D BE COOLER HERE. THIS CITY'S IN TROUBLE.
-FACE
HAVE YOU EVER HAD THE CRAP BEAT OUT OF YOU?
YOU DON'T FEEL IT AT FIRST. YOU GO NUMB. THE ONLY THING I'M FEELING IS FEAR... FEAR FOR MY KIDS.
DAMMIT, I DON'T WANT THEM TO GO THROUGH THIS WORLD ALONE. LOOK WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU.

AND THEN I SEE HIM.
GOT TO ADMIT...
...THAT RED X ON THE BLACK HOOD...
...REALLY CATCHES YOUR EYE.
EVERYTHING'S MOVING TOO FAST... I'M IN A FOG.
I SMILE AS I REALIZE...
Sbplup
Sbplup
HUH... AHUH HUH.
BY TAKING THESE GUYS OUT...
...HE'S GIVING MY CHILDREN BACK THEIR LIVES.

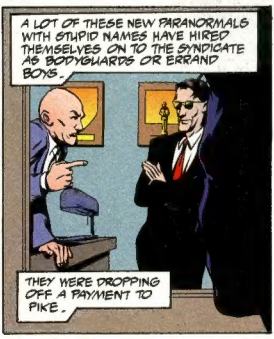
THEN I STOP SMILING. HE'S OVER THE LINE.
BAM
BAM
BAM
WHATDOO HABTA DO DBAT FOR?
WHEE WUZZJUSST HABBING SUBB FFUDD.
TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS FROM STEEL HARBOR. THIS IS THEIR ONLY WARNING.
GO HOME NOW.
OR GO HOME IN A BOX.
HE BENDS DOWN AND I'M STARING INTO THAT EYE.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR THE MURDER OF... LAWRENCE BRIGGS.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU JUST DID... YOU'RE WAY OVER THE LINE.
HE JUST LOOKS AT ME.
IT'S LIKE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING.
EVERY SECRET. EVERY DARK CORNER OF MY SOUL.
THE LINE'S ONLY THERE IF YOU SEE IT, WELLMAN.
THEN HE WALKS AWAY.
I DON'T SEE ANY LINE.
WHY IS HE LETTING ME LIVE?

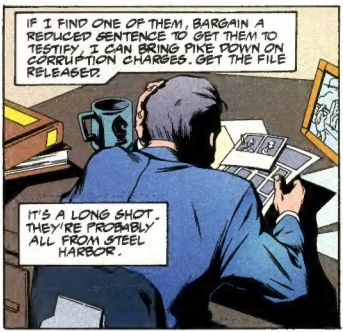

I'M A DETECTIVE FOR THE ARCADIA POLICE. THIS IS WHERE I WORK.
THIS IS MY DESK. MY ISLAND IN THE DEPARTMENT. AS FAR AS I KNOW, I'M THE ONLY ONE IN MY DIVISION WHO ISN'T TAKING A PAY-OFF OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER.
I WON'T DO IT. THEY KNOW I WON'T, AND THAT DRAWS THE LINE BETWEEN THEM AND ME.
PRETTY DAMN LONELY. BUT I'M USED TO IT.
I MIND MY OWN BUSINESS. KEEP MY NOSE CLEAN. UNTIL TONIGHT.
NOTHING'S BEING DONE ABOUT THIS X-KILLER. HE WALTZED RIGHT THROUGH MY BLOCKADE AROUND CANDIDATE BRIGGS AND MURDERED HIM IN COLD BLOOD. I CAN'T LIVE WITH IT.
CAPTAIN PIKE HASN'T BEEN MOVING ON IT. HE'S BEEN IN MY FACE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. TODAY HE TOOK ME OFF THE CASE. I HAD TO DO SOME HACKING TO GET THE COMBINATION TO HIS SAFE.
MY GUESS THIS IS WHERE HE'S KEEPING THE FILES. TONIGHT I FIND OUT WHAT HE'S HIDING.
HE'S HIDING A LOT.

THE FILE IS FULL TO BURSTING... SIGHTINGS, LEADS, DEATH THREATS. PIKE'S HIDING THIS EVIDENCE. WHY?
I HAVE TO DO THIS MY WAY, ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW. I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN PIKE WAS CROOKED. HE TAKES MONEY FROM THE SYNDICATE TO KEEP PATROLS AWAY FROM CERTAIN PLACES ON CERTAIN NIGHTS. IF I CAN BRING PIKE UP ON CORRUPTION CHARGES, I CAN SUBPOENA EVIDENCE, GET THE FILE ON THE X KILLER OUT IN THE OPEN.
IF I DO THIS, MY WORLD WILL NEVER BE THE SAME. I'VE GOT SOME DECISIONS TO MAKE.
THESE DAYS YOU HAVE TO PUT YOUR FAMILY TOGETHER ANY WAY YOU CAN. MY WIFE WAS YOUNGER, AND I HAD KIDS LATE. MARIA'S BEEN WITH US SINCE MY WIFE LEFT. SHE'S LIKE A BIG SISTER TO THE KIDS.
SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT THE CUTS ON MY FACE. I LIKE HER. WHEN SHE FINISHES NIGHT SCHOOL WE'RE GOING TO LOSE HER.
I DON'T THINK SHE'S EVER SEEN ME GET ANGRY LIKE I DID TONIGHT BEFORE I LEFT.
I CAUGHT THEM PLAYING X. THEY'D SEEN HIM ON TV WHEN HE WAS TRASHING THE CONSTRUCTION SITE.
TERRY PUT A BLACK SCARF OVER HER HEAD AND DREW A RED X ON IT WITH MARIA'S LIPSTICK.
WHEN I GET ANGRY THEIR WORLD FALLS APART.
THEY SAY THEY DON'T SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GUY WHO CARVES Zs IN THINGS AND A GUY WHO CARVES Xs.
I TELL THEM THE DIFFERENCE. ONE GUY'S IN A BOOK. THE OTHER GUY'S REAL. AND HE KILLS PEOPLE.
I MAKE MY DECISION.
PIKE GOES DOWN.


THERE'S A LOT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME.
FOR INSTANCE, WHEN I'M WORKING, I PREFER THE CLASSICS.
THE FIRST THING I DO IS CHECK THE NAME OF THE REPORTING DETECTIVE IN PIKE'S X FILES: WILLIAM TENN. TURNS OUT HE CAN'T HELP.
TURNS OUT HE DOESN'T EXIST.

I HATE THAT HE SAVED MY LIFE.
RATED! GIRLZ BOYZ & TOYS!
WHAT WERE THOSE THREE DOING THERE? KILLING ME WAS JUST FUN. WHY WERE THEY IN THE UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT OF THE POLICE STATION?
IT HITS ME.


A LOT OF THESE NEW PARANORMALS WITH STUPID NAMES HAVE HIRED THEMSELVES ON TO THE SYNDICATE AS BODYGUARDS OR ERRAND BOYS.
THEY WERE DROPPING OFF A PAYMENT TO PIKE.


IF I FIND ONE OF THEM, BARGAIN A REDUCED SENTENCE TO GET THEM TO TESTIFY, I CAN BRING PIKE DOWN ON CORRUPTION CHARGES. GET THE FILE RELEASED.
IT'S A LONG SHOT. THEY'RE PROBABLY ALL FROM STEEL HARBOR.

I MAKE ONE. TURNS OUT HE'S A LOCAL BOY. HE LOOKS DIFFERENT, BUT THE PARANORMAL ABILITIES DESCRIPTION OF CLAY-LIKE SKIN IS A PERFECT MATCH. WE EVEN HAVE AN ADDRESS.
I MAKE A CALL, WAKE LIEUTENANT TIMOTHY.
HE GETS THE ADDRESS FROM ME, THEN CALLS OUT THE DOGS.

I'VE NEVER USED THEM BEFORE. I NEVER WANTED TO CROSS THAT LINE. TILL NOW.
BUT IT'S RISKY. THE PIT BULLS ARE UNPREDICTABLE -- JUST LIKE A PACK OF WILD DOGS. TIMOTHY TOLD ME A STORY ABOUT KIDS TRAINED AS KILLERS FROM BIRTH. I BELIEVE IT.
"BUTCH" SEEMS ABLE TO KEEP THE OTHERS UNDER CONTROL, BUT HE'S GONE UP THE FIRE ESCAPE WITH "DUKE".
I GO IN THE FRONT WITH "SPIKE" AND--
--"QUEENIE".
QUEENIE. I TELL HER IT'S A DOG'S NAME-- THAT IT'S DEMEANING-- BUT SHE JUST FLASHES ME A SNARL. IT'S THE ONLY NAME SHE KNOWS, BUT SHE WEARS IT LIKE SOME KIND OF WEIRD BADGE.
THE KIND OF THING A KID WOULD DO.
BUT I JUST CAN'T HELP NOTICING THAT SHE'S ALL GROWN UP. SO FERAL. SO DANGEROUS. I SEE THE LOOK IN HER EYES AND I REALIZE HOW DANGEROUS. HER TRAINING LEFT SOMETHING OUT...
...HUMANITY.
I PUT MY MIND BACK ON BUSINESS. SAFER THAT WAY FOR ALL OF US. ESPECIALLY ME, QUEENIE'S GRUNT SEEMS TO SAY.
THIS IS THE POLICE! YOU HAVE FIVE SECONDS TO OPEN THE DOOR!
KRAHT!

MORE STEEL HARBOR REJECTS.
ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.
DOWN ON THE FLOOR! HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEADS!
NOW!
OHHH MANNN! I JUGGT GODDID BAKK INNTOO SHHAAPE!
KKRRAASHH!!
NICE DOGGIE.
WHAM!
buzzz

QUEENIE!
BAM BAM
BRATT
CLINK
KA-WHOOMP
STOP!
I WWANT TTTO TTTTOUCH HER AGAINNNN.
ALLLL OVVVER THOSS TTTIMME.

TOUCH THIS, PAL.
TRRRR!!!
THOUM
AAAGH!!
GUESS IT'S HARD TO VIBRATE WHEN YOU HIT THE GROUND FROM SIX STORIES UP.
SBLAP
DON'T TRY TO MOVE. ARE YOU OKAY?
SHE DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING. NOT EVEN A WHIMPER. I WONDER, WHO COULD DO SOMETHING TO KIDS TO MAKE THEM TURN OUT LIKE THIS?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT THIS?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I LET DUKE TAKE OVER.
CUFFS WON'T WORK.

WE FIND A WAY OF TAKING CLAYMORE INTO CUSTODY.
THERE'S A CERTAIN POETRY TO IT.
DETECTIVE WELLMAN. CAN I SEE YOU IN MY OFFICE FOR A SECOND.
HERE IT COMES.
HEY, GUYS? I SSAID I'DD TESTIFFY. GOLYS?
LEMMEOUT!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING. IF YOU DON'T STOP,, I'LL TAKE EVERY-THING AWAY FROM YOU.
ARE YOU THREATENING ME, CAPTAIN?
GOOD?
I EXPECTED NO LESS.
HELLO? NO, DON'T DO IT YET. I WANT TO SAVE IT.
BUT I'M RIGHT HERE.
IT'D BE SO EASY.

COMMENTS

10956 SE MAIN ST, MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Edward Martin III here and before we go any further, there's something you have to know right now. You are holding **Dark Horse Comics** *#19, our special Miracle Issue. I should explain.*

First, the color guides for **X***: "Welcome to the Jungle" became stuck in the bowels of an ice-bound plane in Kentucky. I thought this was funny until I saw the newscasts that evening. Thirty degrees below zero!*

Alien *was also stuck in West Virginia for a while by four-foot snow drifts and an insurmountable hill. Vickie, the letterer, had to drive the boards into town in a borrowed 4x4. Then, the lettered pencils were left on the wrong doorstep. They were found in the gutter six days later, with some water damage, food debris from passing vendors, and "only one page punctured." Paul gamely tried to stick to the deadline, but it was not to be. Monday morning, much of Los Angeles, including Paul's apartment, went convertible. The pages weren't terribly damaged, but I still believe this issue is jinxed. You tell me.*

"Will The Machine ever appear in the pages of DHC?"

Dear ***DHC***,

Issue #15 of ***DHC*** was very good. I have been enjoying reading **TTFAW**: "Questionable Research" since it started a few issues ago. The story is keeping me interested and the art is true to the movie. The cover was excellent. I am starting to think that Thing stories work better in ***DHC*** than in limited series. Are there any other Thing projects in the works?

Aliens: "Cargo" was great. The art was clean and sharp. There is nothing I dislike more than rushed artwork, so the art in "Cargo" was very pleasing to my eyes. I'm a big proponent of subdued colors being used in Aliens stories. Once again, I was not let down in this department. The ending was a real cliffhanger. I can't imagine how this one will end, but I'm putting my money on the Alien.

Now, I would quickly like to write about two things that have been bothering me. First of all, I do not understand why some people request that Aliens, Predator, and other movie-related characters be removed from ***DHC***. If memory serves me correctly, ***DHC*** was created as a showcase for such characters. I hope there will always be one or two stories involving these characters in every issue. This would still leave room for different stories such as **The Mark** and **X** in each issue (even I like some variety!).

The second thing that has been bothering me has to do with ***Comics' Greatest World***. A great injustice has been committed recently, namely The Machine not getting a monthly comic. *The Machine* was the best-looking and most interesting comic from the Steel Harbor series. Will The Machine ever appear in the pages of ***DHC***? I would hate to see such a great character go to waste. Until next month ..

Dan Vasconcelos
P.O. Box 221
Princeton, MA 01541-0221

Funny you should speak of X, Dan. I hope you enjoyed this month's cover story, featuring a great script by Eric Luke and crisp art by Nghia Lam. I thought you (and our other readers) might want to see the kind of slick, precise operations that go into comic art. Pictured here is Nghia in his studio, apparently just after reading his deadlines.

I have to say that The Machine is one of my favorites too and, just to whet your appetite, I'll let it slip that a Machine story is coming up in **Dark Horse Comics** *#23 & #24. This is going to look so good your eyes will water. I won't even tell you who's working on it, but trust me, it'll knock your socks off! Also, look for The Machine as a major supporting cast member in* **Barb Wire**, *a new series from Dark Horse launching next month. As if that isn't enough, The Machine will be soon starring in his own title, issue #1 of which ships in October 1994. So don't say I didn't warn you...*

Dear Ed (may I call you Ed?),

John Higgins' cover to ***Dark Horse Comics*** #15 was fabulous. Too bad he's not doing the covers to the new ***TTFAW: Eternal Vows*** series. Speaking of which, part three of **TTFAW**: "Questionable Research" was great, and answered a question I've always wondered about. A creature *can* be infected by The Thing and not know about it. MacReady was right to test himself for infection in the previous TTFAW (is anyone else sick of this abbreviation?) series, ***Climate of Fear***. New inker Alex Niño gave Ted Naifeh's pencils a distinct resemblance to Leo Durañona's work.

As for **The Mark**: "What Goes Around...," it was well written and illustrated, but didn't excite me very much. Sorry.

Lastly, **Aliens**: "Cargo" part one was very good, with terrific art and colors, but like the other Aliens serials in ***DHC***, adds nothing really groundbreaking to the Aliens mythos. Enjoyable nonetheless.

See ya when I see ya...

Robert Knaus
320 Fisher Street
Walpole, MA 02081

Bob (can I call you Bob?), if you think the abbreviation is bad, consider speaking or writing it all out. Also, if you're a trivia hound, you might like to hear that one of the working titles for the latest Thing miniseries was (deep breath here...) **The Thing from Another World: 'Til Death Do Us Part**. *If that isn't a mouthful, I don't have enough teeth!*

When you're working with an alien life form, it's nearly impossible to tell what its motivations, if any, are. The theory that the nervous system (including the brain and cognitive functions) are the last to be infected is based on the assumption that Thing cells travel fastest via the bloodstream, which circulates though the entire body very rapidly But one assumption that everyone seems to be making is that, while The Thing is intelligent enough to hunt its prey and build tiny jet planes and submarines without anyone knowing, it isn't intelligent enough to make a conscious decision who and who not to infect. In short, contact might not necessarily imply infection, due to a conscious decision on the part of The Thing. Isn't that a sobering thought...

"...random carnage are the words that spring to mind."

Dear Edward,

Something keeps drawing me back to ***Dark Horse Comics***, your truly inimitable anthology. Although I have to agree that the appearances of Alien and Predator should be reduced by much, all of the stories are top-notch and seem to be introductions to regular titles just as enjoyable. Blanketed by the reasonably realistic cover by John Higgins, his best work so far, #15 was an excursion in fun.

I'm continuing to enjoy **The Thing from Another World**, and next chapter is when the action should really heat up. I'm upset that there is only one remaining chapter, because the first three chapters seemed like primers for when The Thing actually starts the B-movie fun. In fact, the last page was so wonderfully done that I was ready for the ominous music to begin and a cornball shout to be heard. Edward, you did an excellent job on the script and Ted Naifeh's pencils were perfectly suited to the story. Yet, Alex Niño is not the best replacement for departing (?) Moose Baumann, as the two inkers' styles are different, dramatically affecting the appearance of Naifeh's pencils. Add to it that I'm not a big fan of Alex's inks anyway, so the artwork in "Questionable Research" was the only dissatisfying aspect.

The conclusion to **The Mark**: "What Goes Around..." was again a favorite and I cannot wait for issue #1 of the miniseries. As evidenced by Mike Barr's script, The Mark is a different breed of superhero to be reckoned with. Barr himself never ceases to amaze me, writing with finesse at numerous companies. He's never an *outsider*, his stories are great but not usually *shrouded* in mystery (although I liked the political intrigue aspect of The Mark!) and if "What Goes Around..." is a *mantra* of what to expect in the future, you have it made. Congratulations too to Brad Rader for his spectacular job. Now, what I'd like to see is the decidedly different Mark face off against a decidedly comic-bookish supervillian.

Aliens: "Cargo" was another great first chapter, but I'm tiring quickly of the Aliens. There's only so much you can do with licensed characters, even less with ones whose minds are seldom delved into. The writers, in this case Dan Jolley, do a fantastic job describing setting and the characters to be victimized, but once the Aliens are loose, random carnage are the words that spring to mind. Like **The Thing from Another World**, the last page was full of classic horror thrills, thanks to the script as well as the artwork. John Nadeau and Terry Pallot did an exemplary job, and I could almost see a demented smile on the last page's Alien. Maybe if I enjoyed the Aliens movies, I'd be happy with more Aliens stories. They seem to be good, albeit repetitive, so let's see H. R. Giger's famous creatures a tad more sparingly in the future.

Thanks for your time. If the quality continues like this, I'm sure to be reading a ***Dark Horse Comics 5th Anniversary Special***. Keep up the good work and I'll be back in 30 days for your all-horror, Fox/Universal fest.

Joey Marchese
P.O. Box 2197
Union, NJ 07083-2197

You can see The Mark face off against a deadly foe anytime you want, Joey. Just pick up **The Mark** *miniseries! After reading issue #2, I'm hooked!*

"...this issue made a fan out of me."

Dear ***DHC***.

#15 was another great issue. The cover by John Higgins was great! I hope he does some more covers in the future. Also, I'd like to see another Dave Dorman Predator cover. Here's what I thought about this month's serials.

The Thing from Another World: "Questionable Research" was pretty good. This was probably the best installment so far. I was a little skeptic of this serial at first, but this issue made a fan out of me I can't wait to read the last part. The art team of Ted Naifeh and Alex Niño is great. I'd like to see them work on a Predator serial in the future.

The Mark: "What Goes Around..." was okay. I didn't really enjoy this story, mostly because I didn't really know the story. I was able to pretty much figure out the background, but Mike Barr didn't really explain the motivations and origins of the characters. This was a good story, but I probably wouldn't start collecting this title.

Aliens: "Cargo" was pretty good. John Nadeau's artwork was above average. Do you know of any of his work prior to this serial? I can't really judge the story yet, but it looks great.

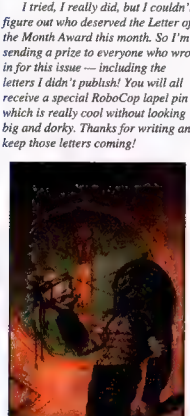
I hope in an upcoming feature you have another Aliens story drawn by Kilian Plunkett. I would also like to see another Godzilla serial or maybe another RoboCop story.

Until the Dark Horse rides again!

Markus Hopper
11 Alran Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221

If you want to see more of Kilian's work, Markus, check out the **Star Wars: Droids** *miniseries for some of his cover work and don't miss* **Dark Horse Presents** *#85, shipping on May 10, 1994, which contains a new story featuring Kilian's spectacular art. As for future Kilian work in* **Dark Horse Comics***, well, what can I say? It's hard to keep a good artist down. I'm sure something will happen soon...*

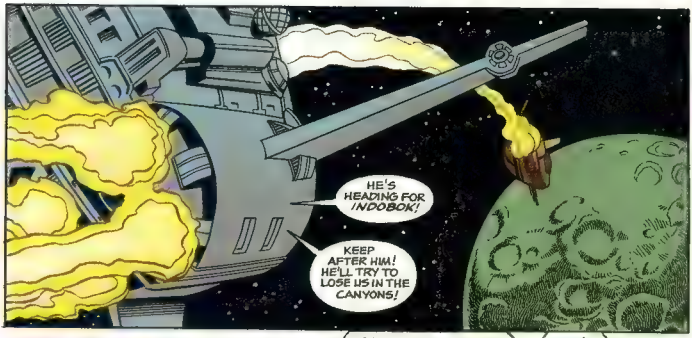
I tried, I really did, but I couldn't figure out who deserved the Letter of the Month Award this month. So I'm sending a prize to everyone who wrote in for this issue — including the letters I didn't publish! You will all receive a special RoboCop lapel pin which is really cool without looking big and dorky. Thanks for writing and keep those letters coming!



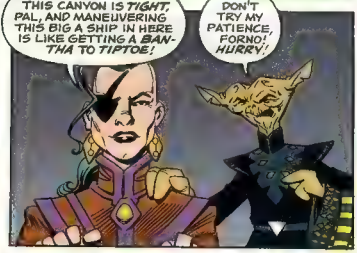
Next month, in **Dark Horse Comics** *#20, we return to Enoch Nakai, from* **Predator: Big Game** *in a new two-part serial, "Blood on Two-Witch Mesa." Enoch may have beaten the Beast once, but revenge transcends time and distance. Also, in the action-crammed conclusion to* ***X****: "Welcome to the Jungle," Wellman realizes that in Arcadia's web of politics, deceit and murder, the only way out is to become what he hates the most — a creature like X! Two thrilling tales in* **Dark Horse Comics** *#20, shipping April 26, 1994. Don't miss it!*

— Edward

STAR WARS
DROIDS
KEEP FIRING! DON'T LET THOSE INFERNAL DROIDS GET AWAY!
I CAN'T LOCK ONTO HIM!
NO EXCUSES, FORNO! YOU CORELLIANS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST PILOTS IN THE GALAXY!
PATCH ME THROUGH TO HIS SHIP'S COMMUNICATOR!
IG-88! THIS IS OLAG GRECK! SURRENDER YOUR SHIP! YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME -- I'LL SEE YOU ATOMIZED FIRST!
ATOMIZED? MASTER OLAG WOULDN'T WANT US TO COME TO HARM! DON'T YOU AGREE, ARTOO?
OH, RECONFIGURE YOUR OWN PROCESSOR, YOU INSUFFERABLE BRAT!
TWEE-TOO-BRAAAP!...


HE'S HEADING FOR INDOBOK!
KEEP AFTER HIM! HE'LL TRY TO LOSE US IN THE CANYONS!

FASTER, FASTER! WHY ARE YOU SLOWING DOWN?


THIS CANYON IS TIGHT, PAL, AND MANEUVERING THIS BIG A SHIP IN HERE IS LIKE GETTING A BANTHA TO TIPTOE!
DON'T TRY MY PATIENCE, FORNO! HURRY!

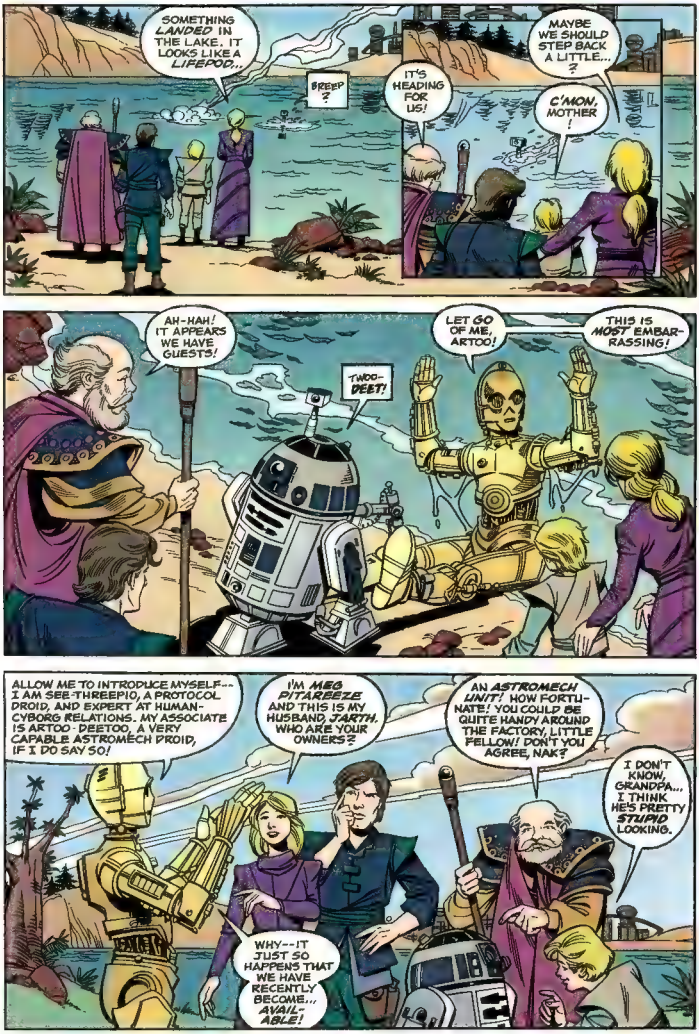
KRROONNG!

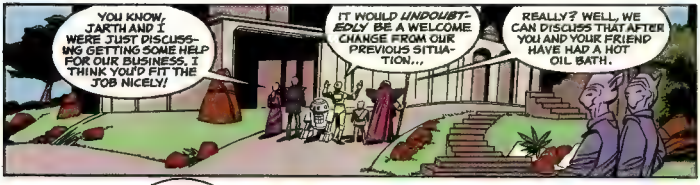
YOU'RE DESTROYING MY SHIP!
COOL YOUR NOZZLES! I WARNED YOU, DIDN'T I?
GREAT! OUR ATTITUDE THRUSTERS ARE DAMAGED! WE'LL HAVE TO CRAWL THROUGH THIS CANYON NOW!
HE'S VANISHED! I CAN'T SEE OR SCAN HIM!
VOOOM!
NO EXCUSES, FORNO! KEEP LOOKING.
SURE, SURE...
ZZEEOOWW!

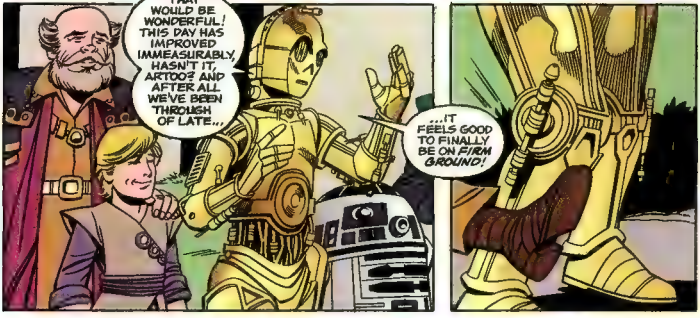
ZEEOOW!
ZEEOOWW!
IT'S IG-88! HE'S FIRED ON THE ARCH!
WE'LL BE PINNED!
OH, DEAR...!
KRONNGG!
I CAN'T HOLD ON! HELLLLP!
OH, WHAT LUCK! WE'VE LANDED IN THE LIFEPOD! QUICKLY, ARTOO, LAUNCH US!
Doo-WEET!
PING

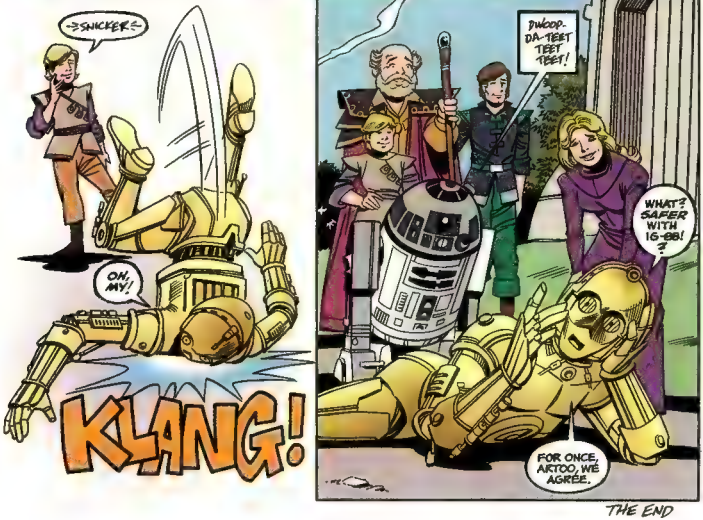
BHOOOOOM!
LOOK! A LIFEPOD WAS EJECTED BEFORE IG-88'S SHIP JUMPED TO HYPERSPACE. IT'S HEADING FOR KALARBA...
SHOULD WE TRACK IT AFTER WE DIG OUT?
IG-88 COULD HAVE KILLED ME RIGHT HERE...IF THAT HAD BEEN HIS ASSIGNMENT!
MY COMPETITION ONLY WANTED TO GIVE ME A BLACK EYE.
FOOLS! THE LIFEPOD IS A DECOY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE BEEN OUTWITTED BY A MACHINE!

AAAAH! SIMPLY LOVELY!
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH THE FACTORY THAT I CAN RARELY ENJOY A LOVELY AFTERNOON!
I KNOW! EVER SINCE WE OPENED THE TRAVEL GUIDE BUSINESS, JARTH AND I HAVE HAD ALMOST NO TIME FOR OURSELVES...
PERHAPS WE SHOULD HIRE SOME HELP, DEAR?
SSHHOOOOM!
I DON'T KNOW... BUSINESS ISN'T THAT GOOD...
WHA--!
SPA-ROOOSH!
BY THE PEAKS!
HAH! THAT WAS REFRESHING!
NAK! COME BACK HERE!
MY SHIRT... THE FABRIC IS RUINED FOR SURE.


SOMETHING LANDED IN THE LAKE. IT LOOKS LIKE A LIFEPOD...
BEEP?
IT'S HEADING FOR US!
MAYBE WE SHOULD STEP BACK A LITTLE...?
C'MON, MOTHER!
AH-HAH! IT APPEARS WE HAVE GUESTS!
TWOO-DEET!
LET GO OF ME, ARTOO!
THIS IS MOST EMBARRASSING!
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF--I AM SEE-THREEPIO, A PROTOCOL DROID, AND EXPERT AT HUMAN-CYBORG RELATIONS. MY ASSOCIATE IS ARTOO-DEETOO, A VERY CAPABLE ASTROMECH PROID, IF I DO SAY SO!
I'M MEG PYTAREEZE AND THIS IS MY HUSBAND, JARTH. WHO ARE YOUR OWNERS?
AN ASTROMECH UNIT! HOW FORTUNATE! YOU COULD BE QUITE HANDY AROUND THE FACTORY, LITTLE FELLOW! DON'T YOU AGREE, NAK?
I DON'T KNOW, GRANDPA... I THINK HE'S PRETTY STUPID LOOKING.
WHY--IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT WE HAVE RECENTLY BECOME... AVAIL-ABLE!


YOU KNOW, JARTH AND I WERE JUST DISCUSSING GETTING SOME HELP FOR OUR BUSINESS. I THINK YOU'D FIT THE JOB NICELY!
IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE A WELCOME CHANGE FROM OUR PREVIOUS SITUATION...
REALLY? WELL, WE CAN DISCUSS THAT AFTER YOU AND YOUR FRIEND HAVE HAD A HOT OIL BATH.


THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL! THIS DAY HAS IMPROVED IMMEASURABLY, HASN'T IT, ARTOO? AND AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH OF LATE...
...IT FEELS GOOD TO FINALLY BE ON FIRM GROUND!


-SNICKER-
OH, MY!
KLANG!
DWOOP-DA-TEET TEET TEET!
WHAT? SAFER WITH IG-88!?
FOR ONCE, ARTOO, WE AGREE.

THE END

ALIENS
ALIEN - PART 3
WHAT SORT OF MONSTER IS THIS? IT SQUEALS AND HISSES, AS IF ATTACKING, YET IT MOVES SLOWLY, ALMOST FEARFULLY.
SUOM IS PUZZLED. PERHAPS THIS IS SOME SORT OF TRICK, OR PERHAPS THE FACE-EGG BEAST IS TRULY HARMLESS.
Suom, are you there?
What is that noise?
A--a strange creature is here with us--
--but, I don't think it is dangerous.
BEEP BEEP
Strange creature?!
Help me, Suom!
Don't let it take me!

SUOM IS SEIZED WITH FEAR. HE KNOWS WHAT A MAN WOULD DO. A MAN WOULD TAKE ACTION, BUT ALL SUOM CAN MUSTER IS--
P-put him down. Put him down, n-n-now.
AND THEN...
Shiva, I think this thing understands me.
Just get me home, Suom. Please... home.
...so cold here.
Aiiieee!
...hurt... hurt me...
A MAN WOULD TAKE ACTION.
THAT IS WHAT A MAN WOULD DO.

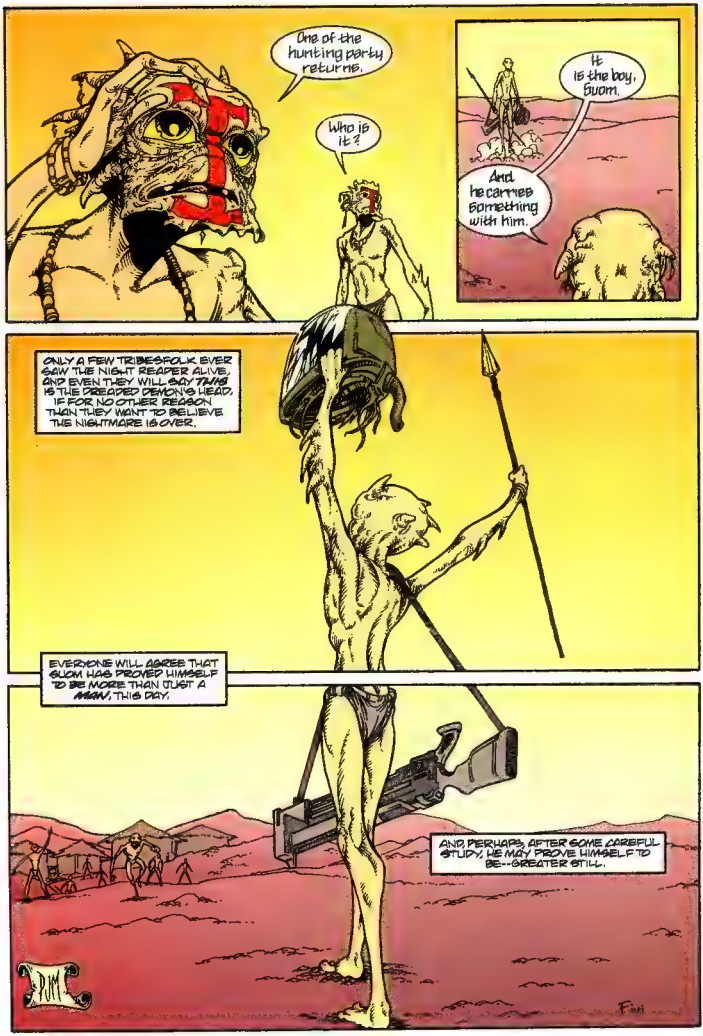
BY NIGHTFALL, GLOM'S FEAR IS TEMPERED BY THE DAY'S EVENTS.
Shius, this Faceless One seems to want to help us.
It hurt you earlier, but it has provided us with a warm fire, and food.
It is not very good food, but it fills our stomachs.
And that is something, is it not, Shius?
SHIUS DOES NOT ANSWER.
BECAUSE HE CANNOT ANSWER, EVER AGAIN.
SHIUS WAS BADLY HURT, AND COULD HAVE DIED FROM HIS INJURIES.
BUT, MAYBE, THERE IS ANOTHER EXPLANATION.

SUDDENLY, SUSPICION IS REPLACED WITH STARK TERROR.
THE BOY HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN WHY HE WAS HERE.
THE NIGHT REAPER. THE DEMON. SLAYER OF WOMEN, CHILDREN--AND HIS TRIBE'S GREATEST HUNTERS--
SHHKOW!
--DESTROYED, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

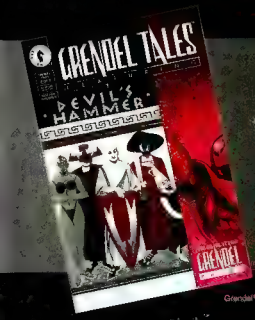
FOR A LONG TIME, ALL GLOOM CAN DO IS WATCH SUCH A MIGHTY WEAPON, GREATER THAN A HUNDRED SPEARS.
BECAUSE OF IT, HE IS ALIVE, AND THE NIGHT REAPER IS DEAD.
DEAD, BUT NOT WITHOUT SOME POWER, A POWER GLOOM PLANS TO USE.
You have saved me, and my people. Many moons, the Night Reaper has preyed on our village.
You must hear my words. I know SEER brought the creature down, but I have sacrificed so much--
Please, let me take home the monster's head...so that my tribe may know the Night Reaper is truly dead.
GASP-O...
NO!
I am sorry, Faceless One. I shall leave you be.
GLOOM CANNOT BEAR THE THOUGHT OF IT.
AFTER SO MUCH PLANNING, PAIN, AND HORROR, GLOOM IS TO BE DENIED THIS PRIZE.

THEN IT DAWNS ON HIM.
THE FACELESS ONE WANTS THE NIGHT REAPER'S HEAD FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES.
IT WILL BE WELCOMED INTO THE VILLAGE AS A SAVIOR, AND WITH THAT WEAPON IT POSSESSES, COULDN'T IT BECOME CHIEFTAIN?
YES, THIS IS A POWERFUL BEING, BUT IT SEEKS TO ROB SUOM OF HIS OWN GOAL.
FOR A MOMENT, ALL THE FEAR IN SUOM'S HEART IS OVERCOME BY ANGER, JEALOUSY, AND AMBITION.
--SUOM BECOMES A MAN.
AND IN THAT MOMENT--

SLOOM WILL HAVE HIS TROPHY, AND THE PRESTIGE IT WILL BRING HIM.
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES--
--SLOOM WILL HAVE HIS TROPHY.
MANY MILES ARE COVERED BY THE NEXT MORNING


One of the hunting party returns.
Who is it?
It is the boy, Buom.
And he carries something with him.
ONLY A FEW TRIBESFOLK EVER SAW THE NIGHT REAPER ALIVE, AND EVEN THEY WILL SAY THIS IS THE DREADED DEMON'S HEAD. IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THEY WANT TO BELIEVE THE NIGHTMARE IS OVER.
EVERYONE WILL AGREE THAT BUOM HAS PROVED HIMSELF TO BE MORE THAN JUST A MAN, THIS DAY.
AND, PERHAPS, AFTER SOME CAREFUL STUDY, HE MAY PROVE HIMSELF TO BE--GREATER STILL.
THE END

THE DEVIL *you thought you knew*



Be ready to step outside the circle, into a world devoid of emotions and feelings.

MARCH

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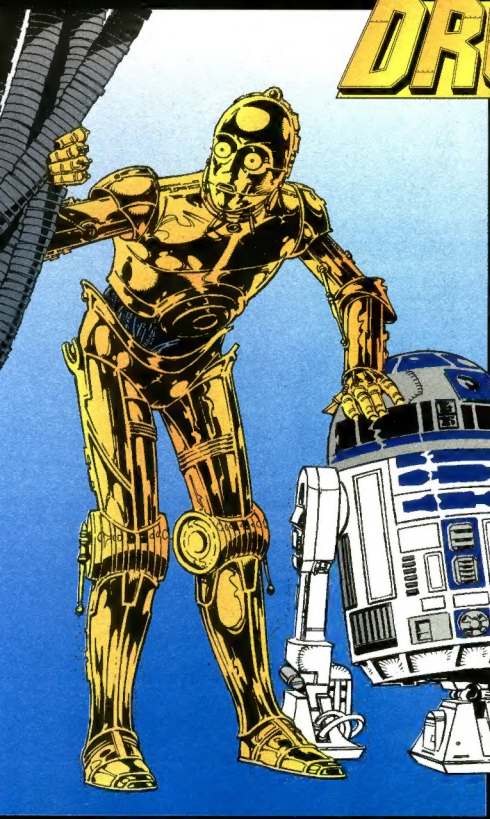
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!

BEFORE THEY FOUGHT TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE,

TWO ABANDONED *DROIDS* FOUGHT TO SAVE THEIR LIVES!

STAR WARS™

DROIDS™



ALL NEW ADVENTURES OF *C-3PO* AND *R2-D2*!

SHIPPING IN APRIL!

DARK HORSE COMICS®

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!™

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FINISH LINE

ULOGY TO JACK KIRBY

delivered by Frank Miller on February 9, 1994, at Pierce Brothers Griffen Chapel, Thousand Oaks, California.

It's not easy to talk about what Jack Kirby accomplished without sounding like a fool. No matter how briefly you try to sum it up, it sounds like wild exaggeration.

He was a sunburst, a one-of-a-kind. He was the greatest artist in the history of our field. He brought a vitality to the comic-book page that made everything that came before Kirby seem outdated, and made everything since Kirby reflection, imitation, or, at best, extrapolation.

Most astonishingly of all, he repeated this feat, decade after decade, breathing new life into the artform and forever changing it each time he touched it.

For fifty years he was the King of comic books, and he always will be. There is no successor to that title.

We celebrate Jack Kirby. We know the injustices he suffered. We know the ways he was done wrong. They are serious.

But they are tiny when you compare them with the man's success.

After all, what is it that constitutes a successful life? Beautiful, loving children? Here they are. A wife and partner as strong and dedicated as Roz Kirby? Here she is. The respect and appreciation of his colleagues? The adoration of his fans? Here I am. Here we are.

Jack Kirby had all these things, and more. He had that rarest of successes: a genius talent that found full and vigorous expression.

Jack Kirby was no victim. Jack Kirby was no martyr. Jack Kirby was a winner. Jack Kirby was a champion.

We celebrate Jack Kirby. And we still learn from him.

To us who write and draw comic books, he offers an example to follow. In our scramble for the royalties and fame that his work made possible, Jack reminds us that it is what we put on the page that matters. The love we give the page.

Jack shows us that following the trends of the day is the work of a parasite, that our artform is kept alive by risk-takers, by trailblazers like Jack.

We will remember that the best among us, the artist who had the best excuse to be arrogant, was a modest man. That he was a kind and gentle man.

Jack, let me thank you once again for the magic that filled my childhood with joy — and for showing me how to find that same joy with a pencil and a blank sheet of paper.

And finally, if you will forgive this particular Catholic his Catholic point of view, I am duty-bound to issue a warning.

This warning is to Saint Peter.

Watch out, Peter. Jack is on the way.

Heaven's about to get a whole lot more exciting.

MAR CHECKLIST

SHIPPING MARCH 1

- ☐ CLASSIC STAR WARS #17
- ☐ RACK & PAIN #1
- ☐ ROBOCOP: ROULETTE #3
- ☐ SIN CITY: A DAME TO KILL FOR #4
- ☐ X #2

SHIPPING MARCH 8

- ☐ BUBBLEGUM CRISIS: GRAND MAL #1
- ☐ DARK HORSE INSIDER #28
- ☐ DARK HORSE PRESENTS #83
- ☐ JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN: POWER #1
- ☐ OUT OF THE VORTEX #6
- ☐ THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD: ETERNAL VOWS #4

SHIPPING MARCH 15

- ☐ ANDREW VACHSS' UNDERGROUND #3
- ☐ GRENDEL TALES: DEVIL'S HAMMER #2
- ☐ INDIANA JONES AND THE ARMS OF GOLD #2
- ☐ OUTLANDERS EPILOGUE
- ☐ PROPELLERMAN #6

SHIPPING MARCH 22

- ☐ ALIENS VOLUME 2 #22 (U.K. EDITION)
- ☐ ALIENS: MUSIC OF THE SPEARS #3
- ☐ CARAVAN KIDD PART 2 #9
- ☐ DOMINION SPECIAL: PHANTOM OF THE AUDIENCE
- ☐ HELLBOY: SEED OF DESTRUCTION #1
- ☐ INDIANA JONES: THUNDER IN THE ORIENT #5
- ☐ THE JAM: URBAN ADVENTURE #7
- ☐ THE MARK #4
- ☐ MAX OVERLOAD #2
- ☐ MOTORHEAD SPECIAL #1

SHIPPING MARCH 29

- ☐ ALIENS/PREDATOR: THE DEADLIEST OF THE SPECIES #5
- ☐ CATALYST: AGENTS OF CHANGE #2
- ☐ DANGER UNLIMITED #2
- ☐ DARK HORSE COMICS #19
- ☐ HELLHOUNDS #2

One MAN'S death rattle is another MAN'S symphony

ALIENS™
MUSIC OF THE SPEARS

The DEADLIEST of creatures can make the LOVELIEST of noises

MONTHLY

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